How are things looking out there?

Just about everywhere we go this is one of the first questions farmers are asking us. It seems like what many of them mean is, “Are things as strange everywhere else as they are here?”. Generally, the answer is yes! Most crops are significantly ahead, weed control has really fallen apart in many places, and we are seeing insects and diseases on crops that we really don’t see that often. Here are some of the things we have been seeing. Maybe some of them will sound familiar…

Pumpkins and winter squash are significantly ahead of schedule in almost all locations, with the exception of later plantings that didn’t set fruit before the very hot spell in late June and July, which slowed or stopped fruit set for a few weeks. Overall, the number of fruits per plant is a little low. In some locations, size is also a little off. However, there are locations with excellent size and good fruit set, too!

Tomatoes generally have good yields, but we are seeing quite a bit of disease, particularly in susceptible varieties. Late blight is scattered throughout the region, and bacterial diseases are the worst many have seen in many years. Early blight and septoria showed up early but did not seem to continue to develop through the season.

Alliums from leeks to onions to garlic matured early and were quite large! Growers throughout the region are working on storage solutions for enormous leeks that are weeks ahead of schedule. Onions are large and fairly free of disease, and garlic seems to have come through curing and early season storage in good shape.

Sweet corn plantings matured faster than many growers wanted, and some growers are coming into their last plantings. For the most part insect numbers have continued to be low, though we have seen some flaring of corn earworm. Where birds got into plantings, damage was often quite severe.

Berries have continued to be impacted by spotted winged drosophila. Laura reports that in every site where she looks for this new invasive pest, she finds it. On top of drought and heat stress, the addition of SWD has been very stressful for many berry growers, especially those not accustomed to having to apply sprays for pest control.

As always, if you want to know whether what are you are seeing is in line with the rest of the area, give us a call! -CLS
Nutrient Management in Tomatoes

Determining the correct amount of nutrients for a fresh market tomato crop is relatively easy. But knowing correct rates is only a piece of the puzzle.

This presentation by Dr. Josh Freeman, Assistant Professor of Horticulture at Virginia Tech University, helps users ensure their tomato crops have the correct amount of nutrients in the correct placement at the correct time. Dr. Freeman also instructs viewers on providing adequate moisture for nutrient uptake and utilization.

This presentation is open access through November 30, 2012 and can be viewed at:
http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/tomato/nutrientmanagement/.

Users can view other recent webcasts in the Focus on Tomato resource at:
http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/fot.

Focus on Tomato is a publication of the Plant Management Network (PMN), a nonprofit online publisher whose mission is to enhance the health, management, and production of agricultural and horticultural crops. It achieves this mission through applied, science-based resources. PMN is jointly managed by the American Society of Agronomy, American Phytopathological Society, and Crop Science Society of America.

To take advantage of PMN's full line of resources, please sign up for its free online newsletter at:

Cover Crop to Consider Planting Now: Tillage/Forage Radish

Tillage radish, also called forage radish, has been gaining in popularity as a cover crop for its many benefits. It is a member of the Brassica family which also includes cabbage, canola and rapeseed. Tillage radish is an excellent nutrient scavenger, grows deep roots effective for breaking up compacted layers (12 to 20 inches), germinates and grows rapidly for weed suppression, and adds organic matter. The plants typically winterkill and in the spring provide a clean “tilled” seedbed for planting. Now is the time to seed this cover crop. Research done last year on planting date suggested the optimal planting window is from late August until mid-September. After that time, the crop does not put on enough growth for its benefits to be realized. Drill at a rate of 8-10 lbs/A or broadcast at 12-14 lbs/A. Seeds should be drilled about ¼ inch deep under moist conditions but can be planted as deep as 1 inch if soil conditions are dry.

Oats and Spring Barley are other cover crop choices to consider for this time of year. Both of these crops will also typically winterkill in our area. These crops can be planted now through the end of September. Drill oats at rate of 2-3 bushels/A or broadcast at 3-4 bushels/A. Drill barley at a rate of 1-2 bu/A or broadcast at 1.5-2.5 bu/A.

(Sandy Menasha, Long Island Fruit and Vegetable Update, August 30, 2012)
Berry Update

Organic Management of Spotted Wing Drosophila

Berries sampled on organically managed raspberry plantings in Ulster County continue to show spotted wing drosophila (SWD) infestation. Two products are approved for use in organic production to control SWD: Entrust and Pyganic. Entrust has been found to be the most effective, but it must be rotated with Pyganic to avoid resistance build-up in the insect. Entrust is limited to 2 consecutive applications, and a total of 9 oz. per crop, per season. If 3 applications are made within one 30-day period, Entrust should not be used for the following 30 days. Entrust will have residual activity for 5-7 days. Entrust has a 1 day-to-harvest interval for bush and caneberries and a 4 hour re-entry interval. Pyganic 5.0 should be applied at a rate of 16-32 oz. per 100 gallons of water in tractor operated sprayers or ¼-½ oz. per gallon for backpack sprayers. Pyganic is not limited in number of applications, and has a zero day to harvest interval. It has a re-entry interval of 12 hours. Pyganic degrades quickly in sunlight so has very low residual on crops. Repeat applications need to be made every 1-2 days. Spraying in the evening will prolong its activity. Pyganic may also be sprayed on harvested fruit in baskets to prevent infestation. Post-harvest spray rate is 5 ml in 10 pints water.

For control of SWD that will best prevent resistance build-up, spray bi-weekly with Entrust and use Pyganic every two days in alternate weeks. Coverage is important for both materials, so it is recommended to add a spreader/sticker, such as M-PEDE or NuFilm P to the tank.

By Emily Cook, Organic Fruit and Vegetable Extension Educator, CCE Ulster County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIXING RATES for backpack sprayers</th>
<th>Per Gallon water</th>
<th>Per 3 gallons water</th>
<th>Per 5 gallons water</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 oz./acre Entrust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pyganic 5.0</td>
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Corn Trap Catches for the week of Aug. 29

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>ECB-E</th>
<th>ECB-Z</th>
<th>Corn Earworm</th>
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</table>
**Variety Walk through Slack Hollow Farm with High Mowing Seeds**

Date: September 12, 2012  
Location: Slack Hollow Farm: 177 Gilchrist Rd, Argyle, NY 12809-9730  
Time: 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Martha Johnson, farmer and owner of Slack Hollow Farm, will lead a tour of her 134-acre (11 acres of vegetables) farm and discuss the attributes of different vegetable varieties she and her partner, Seth Jacobs, have chosen to grow. The walk will focus on different varieties of carrots, mesclun greens, lettuce, broccoli and winter squash. Learn from Martha, an experienced farmer of diversified veggies for over 25 years, what varieties perform well on her farm and at her markets and why. High Mowing Organic Seeds trials manager, Gwenael Engelskirchen, will talk about the characteristics that High Mowing has seen in these varieties on their 4-acre Trials Garden in northern Vermont. Participants will also learn about Slack Hollow Farm’s winter crop production and winter marketing strategies. Come with your questions and a desire to learn about organic varieties and seed!

Slack Hollow Farm has been a family-run diversified vegetable farm since 1985. Seth Jacobs, Martha Johnson and crew grow and market NOFA-NY Certified organic produce grown in the fertile upland (hills) of beautiful Washington County, NY. Slack Hollow Farm has been sourcing organic seeds for the varieties they grow since at least 2006. Founded in 1996, High Mowing Seeds is an independently owned, farm-based seed company dedicated to supporting sustainable agriculture and providing farmers and gardeners with the highest quality certified organic seed.

Supported by USDA Risk Management Agency, Education and Community Outreach Program.

Registration: Please register by calling Stephanie Backer-Bertsch at NOFA-NY at 585-271-1979 x 509, or by registering online at [http://www.tinyurl.com/nofanyevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/nofanyevents).

Registration is FREE for NOFA-NY members and $15/ non-members.

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**Produce Farm and Greenhouse Tour - Beginning Farmer Tour Series**

Interested in learning more about vegetable and fruit farming or greenhouse production? Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties is sponsoring a produce farm and greenhouse tour for Friday, September 7, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Barber’s Farm, 3621 St. Rt. 30, Middleburgh, NY 12122. The public is invited at a cost of $10 per person. For further information or to register for this event, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at 607-547-2536 or Otsego@cornell.edu. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, September 5, 2012. Participants are asked to bring a bagged lunch.

Barber’s Farm is a well-known sixth generation farm in Schoharie Valley producing over 50 different types of vegetables, various flowering plants, small fruit and apples, cider and more. This event will include a tour of the vegetable fields and greenhouses followed by a discussion of marketing opportunities for produce operations.

Interested in other farm businesses? Individuals new to farming, or those with little farming experience, can take advantage of Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties’ Beginning Farmer Tour Series to discover the variety of farm enterprises within our region. There will be a tour each month from now through November. Each event will include a tour of a farm operation and insights into how to start a farm business in our region. Current producers are always welcome! For more information, contact Amy Chamberlain at 607-547-2536 (x226) or aic378@cornell.edu, or David Cox at 518-234-4303 (x119) or dgc23@cornell.edu.

*Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by contacting Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties prior to the program.*

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David G. Cox  
Agriculture/Horticulture Program Leader  
Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties  
173 South Grand Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
518-234-4303/296-8310; 518-234-4305 (fax)  
dgc23@cornell.edu  
[www.cceschoharie.org](http://www.cceschoharie.org)
Meeting Notice:
September 11, 2012, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us at Mervin Byler’s produce farm, 244 DeRonda Rd, Springfield, NY, 13468 to tour a 96 foot Haygrove high tunnel of tomatoes and for a late-season disease update. We will also do a hands-on calibration of a backpack sprayer. Bring your questions! 2 DEC credits applied for.

Directions from Hwy 80 going east out of Ft Plain: Stay on 80 for about 8 miles, then take a left onto Cty Rd 74/Elwood Rd. Take the first right onto Wagner Hill Rd. Continue for 2 miles, then take a left on Cty Rte 95/Wiltse Hill Rd. Continue for just over a mile, then take your first right onto Cty Rte 204/Wiltse Corners Rd. After a mile, Wiltse Cors. Rd. becomes DeRonda Rd. Look for meeting signs!

If you have questions please contact Crystal at 518-775-0018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Growing Degree Information Base 50° F</th>
<th>Rainfall Accumulations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Albany</td>
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<td>Glens Falls</td>
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<td>Hudson</td>
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</table>

Diagnose pest and disease problems using color pictures: [http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/](http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/)
Cornell Guidelines for fruit and vegetables: [http://www.nysaes.cals.cornell.edu/recommends/](http://www.nysaes.cals.cornell.edu/recommends/)
USDA Fruit and Vegetable Market News: [www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv](http://www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv)

Cornell Cooperative Extension and the staff assume no liability for the effectiveness of results of any chemicals for pesticide use. No endorsement of any products is made or implied. Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete, and current pesticide recommendations. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not substitutes for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying any pesticide. Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

*Weekly and Seasonal Weather Information*

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